

Remarks

Claims 1 – 33 are pending. Claims 1- 33 are subject to a restriction requirement.

Restriction to one of the following inventions was required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- Group I, claims 1-28, drawn to a fermentation process of producing pleuromutilins.
- Group II, claims 29-33, dran to a semi-synthetic process of producing pleuromutilin derivatives.

Applicants elect group I without traverse. Claims 1 – 33 have been canceled and new claims 34 – 55 have been added. These claims read on Group I. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute, in one or more patent applications, the canceled claims, the claims to non-elected inventions, the claims as originally filed, and any other claims supported by the specification.

Claim 34 finds basis in the description on page 4, lines 6 to 9 and lines 30 to 32, and also in claims 2, 10, 19 and 20 of the PCT application.

Claims 35 to 39 correspond generally to former claims 3 to 7.

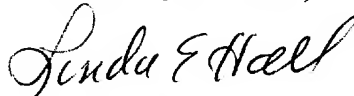
Claims 40 to 42 correspond generally to former claims 11 to 13.

Claims 43 to 47 are new claims, directed to particular features of the direct crystallization process (step d). These claims find basis in the description on page 4, lines 36 to 40.

Claims 48 to 55 correspond generally to former claims 21 to 28.

Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of this case, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned agent at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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